



DURHAM COUNTY

SOLID WASTE

HANDBOOK

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES, 310 S. DILLARD STREET DURHAM NC 27701 919 560-0430

Revised July 2004

COUNTY MISSION

The mission of Durham County Government is to enhance the quality of life for its citizens by providing education; safety and security; health and human services; economic development; and cultural and recreational resources.

DEPARTMENT MISSION

The mission of General Services is to provide quality maintenance services to our customers in a safe and cost effective manner.

WASTE REDUCTION MISSION

The mission of the Waste Reduction Division is to help conserve and protect the physical environment of Durham. We work to meet our mission through the effective and efficient delivery of the following services: solid waste garbage collection and disposal, recyclable collection, litter control and prevention, and environmental education for citizens and county employees.

WASTE REDUCTION DIVISION

Waste reduction, or waste prevention, is reducing the amount of waste before it's generated. The County of Durham Waste Reduction Division consists of three branches: Solid Waste Management, Recycling, and Litter Control. In some way, all three branches seek to reduce the amount of waste generated by citizens. The Division employs 17 full time employees. Each year the Solid Waste Management branch collects 7,600 tons of solid waste. The Recycling branch collects 4,000 tons of recyclable materials. The Litter Control branch recovers about 12 tons of improperly disposed of trash and handles about 50 junked/abandoned vehicle cases per year.

The Division strives to support the County Commissioner's goal of improving the living standard in the County by protecting and preserving the environment. Proper waste management is an important part of increasing the livability of the County. Our Division is committed to recycling and waste reduction efforts that reduce the amount of material reaching the landfill, saves money, saves resources, conserves energy, and reduces sanitation transport costs.

SOLID WASTE

Durham County operates four (4) solid waste convenience centers for county residents to dispose of their trash and recyclables. The hours of operation at all of the centers is 7:00am to 7:00pm, Monday through Saturday. Business and commercial waste is prohibited from the centers. Access to the center is gained by the displaying of a Durham County Solid Waste Sticker. County, City, and Out-of-County residents can get more information on the purchase of these decals by calling 560-0430.

SITE	LOCATION	TELEPHONE
PARKWOOD	HIGHWAY 55 & ALEXANDER DRIVE	(919) 560-0460
REDWOOD	REDWOOD ROAD & ELECTRA DRIVE	(919) 682-8200
BAHAMA	QUAIL ROOST ROAD & BALL ROAD	(919) 477-8552
ROUGEMONT	BILL POOLE ROAD & HIGHWAY 501 NORTH	(919) 477-4325

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is "misplaced solid waste" resulting from careless attitudes and waste handling. It is behavioral in origin and can best be changed with awareness and education. Keep America Beautiful research has found that people litter when common forms of behavior indicate that littering is acceptable. For example, many smokers have "accepted the norm": to throw used cigarette butts on the ground or out a car window.

People litter if they do not feel (or haven't been educated to accept) any share of personal "ownership" in, or responsibility for areas in the community we all share like streets, parks, beaches, sidewalks, etc. Also, people tend to litter when they believe someone else will pick up after them. A contributing factor to this mind set is when people see litter that has accumulated in a particular place.

Litter is also a costly problem. City, county, and state highway departments spend millions of dollars and many hours each year cleaning up litter. This is money and time that could be better spent to meet community needs. Aside from the direct cost issue, litter is responsible for about 2,500 accidents each year.

Not surprisingly, motorist and pedestrians are often blamed for litter. But, most litter is generated from sources such as:

- Improperly bagged garbage
- Dumpsters used by businesses
- Loading docks
- Construction and Demolition Sites
- Trucks with Uncovered or Unsecured Loads
- Pedestrians
- Motorists

ILLEGAL DUMPING

North Carolina has begun to get tough on litterbugs. House Bill 222 was signed into law in December of 1999 which toughens anti-littering laws and increases the fines and penalties for first-time and repeat offenders. First time offenders are now subject to fines of \$500 - \$1000 for up to 15 pounds of litter. To report illegal dumping in progress, contact the Sheriffs Office at 560-0900 or the Litter Control Investigator at 560-0430.

Judges are now required to order violators to remove the litter, repair or pay for damages or perform community service as a part of their sentence. To report illegal dump sites for investigation and clean up, contact the Litter Control Officer at 560-0430.

ABANDONED AND JUNKED VEHICLES

Litter Control is also responsible for the abatement of abandoned and junked motor vehicles on private property in the county (560-0430) and the Sheriffs Department is responsible for abandoned or junked vehicles on public property (560-0900).

RECYCLING

There are two ways in which the County provides recycling collection for its citizens: bi-weekly curbside collection & manned convenience centers. Citizens may utilize both of these methods if they so desire.

Durham County contracts recycling services with a private company, Tidewater Fibre Corporation(957-8803). Tidewater Fibre Corp. collects accepted recyclables at curbside for residents on a bi-weekly schedule. Residents living North of the Eno River receive curbside recycling service on ***Schedule A***. Those living South of the Eno River receive service on ***Schedule B***.

ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS FOR CURBSIDE COLLECTION

- Newspaper & Magazines
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Glass Bottles & Jars
- Plastic Bottles(#1,2,5,7)
- Aluminum Cans, Foil, & Tins
- Steel Cans

Residents should refer to their recycling brochure or magnet for further details.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. How do I get a blue recycling bin for the curbside pick-up program?

A. There are two points of contact to receive a recycling bin:

1) Tidewater Fibre Corporation at 957-8803

- or -

2.) Durham County General Services at 560-0430.

Q. My recycling was not picked up on my scheduled collection day, whom do I contact?

A. Tidewater Fibre Corporation at 957-8803 or Durham County General Services at 560-0430.

Q. How do I get the decal that allows me to use the Convenience Centers?

A. County residents receive the decals by mail during the month of December for the following year.

However, if you do not receive a mailing containing the decals by the end of December, or, you build a home in the county after January 1, contact the General Services Department at 560-0430.

Q. If I want to sponsor a “Community Clean-Up Day”, whom do I contact?

A. Contact the Durham County Waste Reduction Manager at 560-0433.

Q. Who do I contact to report a litter control problem or junked/abandoned motor vehicles in my neighborhood?

A. Contact the County Litter Control Investigator at 560-0437.

Q. If I have a problem at one of the Convenience Centers, whom do I call?

A. For any concerns about the convenience centers contact the County Waste Reduction Supervisor at 560-0442.

ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS AT CONVENIENCE CENTERS

Tidewater Fibre Corporation is also responsible for hauling the recyclables from the solid waste convenience centers. All of the fore-mentioned curbside recyclables are also accepted at the centers.

The County contracts with Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI) to haul the bulky recyclable materials from the Convenience centers. These materials include:

- Washer
- Dryer
- Refrigerator
- Freezer
- Air Conditioners

Automobile batteries, used motor oil, and used anti-freeze is also collected from the facility and recycled.

YARD WASTE

Yard waste is grass, brush, limbs, leaves, and trees (no more than 6 inches in diameter and not more than 8 feet in length).

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW)

HHW collection is provided to county residents by the City of Durham at 1900 E. Club Blvd. Collection dates are: the 2nd & 4th Saturday, March-October and the 2nd Saturday of the month November through February. Hours of collection are 9 A.M. until 3 P.M. For more information call the HHW hotline at 287-8051.

TIRE DISPOSAL

Durham residents can dispose of old automobile tires free of charge at the City transfer station located at 2115 E. Club Blvd (560-4505).

WHITE GOODS

Bulky appliances (white goods) can be disposed of at no charge at Durham County's four(4) Convenience Centers or at the City of Durham Transfer Station located at 2115 E. Club Blvd (560-4505).

SWAP SHOP

Durham County has one swap shop located at the Redwood Convenience Center. The objective of the swap shop is to divert “re-useable materials” from the waste stream. Citizens can exchange a wide range of household goods free of charge. Swap Shop hours of operation coincide with the regular convenience center hours.

PLASTIC PESTICIDE CONTAINERS

Various chemicals for agricultural use are stored in plastic containers. These containers are not collected & recycled with the everyday household recyclables. The County provides special collection bins for these plastic pesticide containers. These bins are located at the three(3) following Convenience Centers:

Parkwood	Hwy. 55 & Alexander Drive
Redwood	Redwood Road & Electra Drive
Bahama	Quail Roost Road & Ball Road

USED TELEPHONE BOOKS

Each year new telephone books are distributed and the old ones become obsolete. Annually, we provide telephone book recycling at two traditional locations: Woodcroft Shopping Center(Hwy. 54 & Hope Valley Road) & Northgate Mall(Guess Rd. entrance near Office Max). Large collection bins are placed in the parking lot of each location from December-February.

CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION DEBRIS

The County Convenience Centers are not equipped to handle large amounts of construction & demolition debris generated from building rehabilitation and or demolition. This type of waste should be taken to the City of Durham transfer station located at 2115 East Club Blvd.